

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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CON ARTISTS TARGETING HOMEOWNERS IN CITY PROJECT AREA

Scam Appears to Target the Elderly

INDIANAPOLIS – For the second time in as many weeks, a con artist has posed as a city construction worker trying to collect payment from homeowners. The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) is warning residents to be on the alert for con artists and fraud.

Last week, a white man wearing a hardhat and reflective vest approached a homeowner in the Pendleton Pike and Shadeland Avenue Drainage Improvement Project area and claimed the homeowner owed the City of Indianapolis \$1,200 for her portion of the project. This man went by the name “Charles Barksdale” and was not a city employee or contractor. He succeeded in his scam.

This week, a white man wearing a hardhat and a green vest approached a different homeowner in the same project area. In this instance, the man claimed the homeowner owed the City of Indianapolis \$1,800 for her portion of the project and stated he would also accept partial payment. The scam did not work in this case. Again, this man was not a city employee or contractor.

With the exception of a one-time sewer connection fee for the Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP), **DPW will never ask residents to pay for city construction projects.** For information on the STEP connection fee, visit <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/Environment/CleanStream/solutions/Septic/Pages/STEP.aspx>.

If a resident is contacted by DPW or someone claiming to be a city representative and has questions or concerns, please call DPW at 327-2561 for more information.

Residents who believe they have been a victim of this type of fraud should contact the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) at 327-3811 and file a police report. After a report has been filed, contact the Organized Crime Branch of IMPD at 327-3658.

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